1. In a computerized system that includes a client system, a front-end server, and one or more back-end servers, all interconnected with a communication link, wherein the client system periodically accesses content stored on the one or more back-end servers through the front-end server, and wherein over time the content may be moved from one back-end server to another or may appear to be stored at a back-end server when in fact the content is not stored at that back-end server, a method of transparently redirecting a request for the content such that the client system is unaware of the redirection, the method comprising the front-end server performing the acts of:

receiving a request for the content from the client system;

directing the request to a particular back-end server;

receiving from the particular back-end server, a redirect response identifying one or more other back-end servers where the content is stored;

automatically and without client system intervention, redirecting the request to a redirect back-end server, the redirect back-end server being one of the one or more other back-end servers identified in the redirect response;

receiving the requested content from the redirect back-end server; and

sending the requested content to the client system.

2. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the act of adding a front-end indicator to the request in order to indicate that the front-end server is making the request on behalf of the client system.

3. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the front-end indicator is added to a hypertext transfer protocol User Agent header.

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4. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the redirect response identifies a list of back-end servers where the content is stored.

5. A method as recited in claim 4 wherein the list of back-end servers is identified in a hypertext transfer protocol 305 Use Proxy response from the particular back-end server.

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6. A method as recited in claim 4 further comprising the acts of:

requesting authentication credentials from the client system; and

receiving proper authentication credentials from the client system.

7. A method as recited in claim 6 further comprising the acts of:

receiving an authentication token that is associated with the authentication credentials; and

using the authentication token as a key for a hash operation to identify the redirect back-end server from the list of back-end servers identified in the redirect response.

8. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the redirect response identifies a single back-end server where the content is stored.

9. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the single back-end server is identified in either a hypertext transfer protocol 301 Moved Permanently or 302 Moved Temporarily response from the particular server.

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10. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the acts of:

receiving the requested content from the redirect back-end server; and

sending the requested content to the client system.

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11. In a computerized system that includes a client system, a front-end server, and one or more back-end servers, all interconnected with a communication link, wherein the client system periodically accesses content stored on one or more back-end servers through the front-end server, and wherein over time the content may be moved from one back-end server to another or may appear to be stored at a back-end server when in fact the content is not stored at that back-end server, a method of redirecting a request for the content directed to a particular back-end server when the content is not stored at the particular back-end server, the method comprising the back-end server performing the acts of:

receiving a content request from the client system through the front-end server, the content request including a front-end indicator in order to indicate that the front-end server is making the content request on behalf of the client system;

examining the content request for the front-end indicator;

the front-end indicator having been present in the content request, creating a redirect response to the content request that includes a list of one or more redirect back-end servers where the content is stored; and

sending the redirect response to the front-end server so that the front-end server can redirect the request to the one or more redirect back-end servers.

12. A method as recited in claim 11 wherein the front-end indicator is added to a hypertext transfer protocol User Agent header.

13. A method as recited in claim 11 wherein the list of one or more redirect back-end servers is identified in a hypertext transfer protocol 305 Use Proxy response from the particular back-end server.

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14. In a computerized system that includes a client system, a front-end server, and one or more back-end servers, all interconnected with a communication link, wherein the client system periodically accesses content stored on the one or more back-end servers through the front-end server, and wherein over time the content may be moved from one back-end server to another or may appear to be stored at a back-end server when in fact the content is not stored at that back-end server, a method of transparently redirecting a request for the content such that the client system is unaware of the redirection, the method comprising the front-end server performing:

an act of receiving a request for the content from the client system;

a step for querying a particular back-end server for the requested content, wherein the response to the query identifies one or more other back-end servers where the content is stored;

a step for, automatically and without user intervention, retrieving the requested content from a redirect back-end server, the redirect back-end server being one of the one or more other back-end servers identified in the redirect response; and

an act of sending the requested content to the client system.

15. A method as recited in claim 14 further comprising a step for authenticating the client system.

16. A method as recited in claim 15 wherein the query response identifies a list of back-end servers where the content is stored, the method further comprising a step for distributing the request to the redirect back-end server based on the client system authentication.

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17. A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the query response identifies a single back-end servers where the content is stored.

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18. In a computerized system that includes a client system, a front-end server, and one or more back-end servers, all interconnected with a communication link, wherein the client system periodically accesses content stored on the one or more back-end servers through the front-end server, and wherein over time the content may be moved from one back-end server to another or may appear to be stored at a back-end server when in fact the content is not stored at that back-end server, a method of transparently redirecting a request for the content such that the client system is unaware of the redirection, comprising the acts of:

the front-end server receiving a request for the content from the client system;

the front-end server directing the request to a particular back-end server;

the particular back-end server receiving the request from the front-end server;

the particular back-end server creating a redirect response that identifies one or more other back-end servers where the content is stored; and

the front-end server automatically and without client system intervention, redirecting the request to a redirect back-end server, the redirect back-end server being one of the one or more other back-end servers identified in the redirect response.

19. A method as recited in claim 18 further comprising the act of the front-end server adding a front-end indicator to the request in order to indicate to the particular back-end server that the front-end server is making the request on the behalf of the client system.

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20. A method as recited in claim 19 wherein the redirect response from the particular back-end server identifies a list of back-end servers where the content is stored.

21. A method as recited in claim 20 further comprising the acts of:

the front-end server requesting authentication credentials from the client system; and

the front-end server receiving proper authentication credentials from the client system.

22. A method as recited in claim 21 further comprising the acts of:

the front-end server receiving an authentication token that is associated with the authentication credentials; and

the front-end server using the authentication token as a key for a hash operation to identify the redirect back-end server from the list of back-end servers identified in the redirect response.

23. A method as recited in claim 18 wherein the redirect response from the particular back-end server identifies a single back-end server where the content is stored.

24. A method as recited in claim 18, further comprising the acts of:

the front-end server receiving the requested content from the redirect back-end server; and

the front-end server sending the requested content to the client system.

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25. In a computerized system that includes a client system, a front-end server, and one or more back-end servers, all interconnected with a communication link, wherein the client system periodically accesses content stored on the one or more back-end servers through the front-end server, and wherein over time the content may be moved from one back-end server to another or may appear to be stored at a back-end server when in fact the content is not stored at that back-end server, a computer program product for implementing a method of transparently redirecting a request for the content such that the client system is unaware of the redirection, comprising:

a computer readable medium for carrying machine-executable instructions for implementing the method; and

wherein said method is comprised of machine-executable instructions for the front-end server performing the acts of:

receiving a request for the content from the client system;

directing the request to a particular back-end server;

receiving from the particular back-end server, a redirect response identifying one or more other back-end servers where the content is stored;

automatically and without client system intervention, redirecting the request to a redirect back-end server, the redirect back-end server being one of the one or more other back-end servers identified in the redirect response;

receiving the requested content from the redirect back-end server; and

sending the requested content to the client system.

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26. A computer program product as recited in claim 25, the method comprised further of machine-executable instructions for performing the act of adding a front-end indicator to the request in order to indicate that the front-end server is making the request on behalf of the client system.

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27. A computer program product as recited in claim 25, wherein the redirect response identifies a list of back-end servers where the content is stored.

28. A computer program product as recited in claim 27, the method comprised further of machine-executable instructions for performing the acts of:

requesting authentication credentials from the client system; and

receiving proper authentication credentials form the client system.

29. A computer program product as recited in claim 28, the method comprised further of machine-executable instructions for performing the acts of:

receiving an authentication token that is associated with the authentication credentials; and

using the authentication token as a key for a hash operation to identify the redirect back-end server from the list of back-end servers identified in the redirect response.

30. A computer program product as recited in claim 25, wherein the redirect response identifies a single back-end server where the content is stored.

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31. In a computerized system that includes a client system, a front-end server, and one or more back-end servers, all interconnected with a communication link, wherein the client system periodically accesses content stored on one or more back-end servers through the front-end server, and wherein over time the content may be moved from one back-end server to another or may appear to be stored at a back-end server when in fact the content is not stored at that back-end server, a computer program product for implementing a method of redirecting a request for the content directed to a particular back-end server when the content is not stored at the particular back-end server, comprising:

a computer readable medium for carrying machine-executable instructions for implementing the method; and

wherein said method is comprised of machine-executable instructions for the particular back-end server performing the acts of:

receiving a request for the content from the client system through the front-end server, the request including a front-end indicator in order to indicate that the front-end server is making the request on behalf of the client system;

examining the content request for the front-end indicator;

the front-end indicator having been present in the content request, creating a redirect response to the request that includes a list of one or more redirect back-end servers where the content is stored; and

sending the redirect response to the front-end server so that the front-end server can redirect the request to the one or more redirect back-end servers.

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32. A method as recited in claim 31 wherein the front-end indicator is added to a hypertext transfer protocol User Agent header.

33. A method as recited in claim 31 wherein the list of one or more redirect back-end servers is identified in a hypertext transfer protocol 305 Use Proxy response from the particular back-end server.

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